

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

EARL D. PHIFFER,

Petitioner,

v.

GREGORY GRAMS, Warden,
Columbia Correctional Institution,

Respondent.

ORDER

10-cv-400-bbc

On February 15, 2011, I denied petitioner Earl D. Phiffer's petition for a writ of habeas corpus under 28 U.S.C. § 2254 because he had not shown he was in custody in violation of the equal protection clause, as he had contended. In that order I denied petitioner's request for a certificate of appealability. Now, petitioner has filed a notice of appeal.

Because petitioner has not paid the \$455 fee for filing an appeal, I construe his notice as a request for leave to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal. Petitioner's appeal is not subject to the 1996 Prison Litigation Reform Act. Walker v. O'Brien, 216 F.3d 626, 628-629 (7th Cir. 2000) ("the PLRA does not apply to any requests for collateral relief under

28 U.S.C. §§ 2241, 2254, or 2255"). Nevertheless, in determining whether a petitioner is eligible for indigent status on appeal under 28 U.S.C. § 1915, the court must find both that the petitioner does not have the means to pay the \$455 fee for filing his appeal and that the appeal is taken in good faith. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1) and (3). I do not intend to certify that petitioner's appeal is not taken in good faith.

In determining whether a habeas corpus petitioner is eligible for pauper status, the court applies the formula set out in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). Specifically, from the petitioner's trust fund account statement for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his appeal, I add the deposits made to petitioner's account and calculate 20% of the greater of the average monthly deposits or the average monthly balance in the account. If the 20% figure is more than the fee petitioner owes for filing his appeal, he may not proceed in forma pauperis. If the 20% figure is less than \$455, he must prepay whatever portion of the fee the calculation yields.

I cannot tell whether petitioner qualifies for indigent status on appeal because he has not submitted a trust fund account statement for the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of his notice of appeal. Therefore, I will stay a decision on petitioner's request for leave to proceed in forma pauperis pending his submission of the necessary trust fund account statement.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that a decision whether petitioner may proceed in forma pauperis on appeal is STAYED. Petitioner may have until March 15, 2011 in which to submit a trust fund account statement for the six-month period beginning approximately August 22, 2010 and ending approximately February 22, 2011. If, by March 15, 2011, petitioner fails to submit the necessary trust fund account statement, I will deny his request for leave to proceed in forma pauperis on appeal for his failure to show that he is entitled to indigent status on appeal.

Entered this 28th day of February, 2011.

BY THE COURT:

/s/

BARBARA B. CRABB

District Judge